

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

Allowable claims

The Examiner objected to claims 20-22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten the claims as suggested by the Examiner. For simplification, please see the chart below cross referencing the prior objected to claims and the new or amended independent claims.

Prior Objected To Claim	See New or Amended Independent Claim
20	19
21	31
22	41

It is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2007/0218268). This rejection is traversed, particularly in light of the amended claims. Applicant has incorporated allowable claims 20-22 into the independent claims. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. in view of Carte et al. (U.S. Patent 6,495,229). The Examiner rejected claim 30 as being unpatentable over Kato et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed, particularly in light of the amended claims.

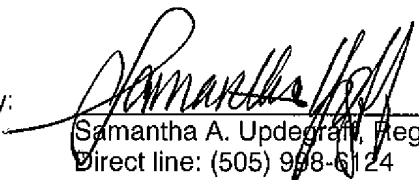
Applicant has incorporated allowable claims 20-22 into the independent claims. Therefore, these rejections are moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection have been traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and the same is respectfully requested.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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